

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 051512

PASS TO MARK PRATT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, ASEC, US, VM

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF DEFENDANT RONALD LOUIS HUMPHREY: TRANS-
MITTAL OF LETTER TO SRV AMBASSADOR DINH BA THI

1. THE DEPARTMENT TRANSMITTED TO EMBASSY PARIS BY UNCLASSIFIED AIR POUCH G-1-1606, LETTER FROM WARREN L. MILLER, OF THE LAW OFFICE STEIN, ALPERT AND MILLER, COUNSEL TO RONALD L. HUMPHREY, ADDRESSED TO AMBASSADOR DINH BA THI, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HANOI, VIETNAM. POUCH NO. G-1-1606 DEPARTED THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D.C. AT 11:00 A.M., FEBRUARY 25, 1978. REGISTRY NO. FOR THE LETTER TO AMBASSADOR THI IS 4143701, OFFICE SYMBOL EA/VLC, ADDRESSEE MARK PRATT, POLITICAL SECTION, EMBASSY PARIS.
2. EMBASSY SHOULD AT ONCE TRANSMIT LETTER TO THE SRV EMBASSY UNDER COVER OF THE TRANSMITTAL LETTER, TEXT OF WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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IS IN PARAGRAPH 5. TRANSMITTAL LETTER SHOULD BE FROM MARK PRATT, LIAISON OFFICER, TO DO THANH, LIAISON OFFICER OF THE SRV EMBASSY, PARIS, FRANCE. PRATT SHOULD SEEK APPOINTMENT AT SRV EMBASSY AND TRANSMIT THE LETTER TO LIAISON OFFICER DO THANH AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY AND AS THE SOLE SUBJECT OF THE MEETING.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD ADVISE DEPARTMENT BY IMMEDIATE CABLE

WHEN LETTERS HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED TO SRV EMBASSY.

4. EMBASSY SHOULD POUCH COPY OF PRATT'S LETTER, PROPERLY CERTIFIED AS A TRUE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL.

5. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. THANH:

THIS LETTER IS IN REFERENCE TO CERTAIN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS NOW PENDING IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA WHICH INVOLVE CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST MR. RONALD LEWIS HUMPHREY.

MR. HUMPHREY HAS SOUGHT THE ASSISTANCE OF THE COURT IN COMMUNICATING WITH AMBASSADOR DINH BA THI IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN HIS WILLINGNESS, AND THE WILLINGNESS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, TO ASSIST MR. HUMPHREY IN THIS PROCEEDING. THE COURT, IN TURN, HAS DIRECTED THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST MR. HUMPHREY'S COUNSEL IN CONTACTING AMBASSADOR THI BY THE BEST AVAILABLE MEANS.

ACCORDINGLY, I AM TRANSMITTING TO YOU A LETTER WRITTEN TO AMBASSADOR THI BY MR. HUMPHREY'S COUNSEL. SHOULD AMBASSADOR THI WISH, I WOULD BE PLEASED TO TRANSMIT HIS REPLY TO MR. HUMPHREY'S COUNSEL. SINCE THE TRIAL IN THIS PROCEED-
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ING IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN APRIL 3, 1978, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR MR. HUMPHREY'S COUNSEL TO KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER AMBASSADOR THI'S ASSISTANCE WILL BE AVAILABLE. YOURS TRULY, MARK PRATT. END TEXT.

6. IF ASKED WHY THE PARIS LIAISON CHANNEL IS BEING USED FOR THIS PURPOSE, PRATT SHOULD REFER TO THE WORDING ABOVE AND EXPLAIN OUR ACTION IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DIRECTION OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, WHICH STIPULATED THAT COMMUNICATIONS ON BEHALF OF MR. HUMPHREY BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH "THE BEST AVAILABLE MEANS".
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